

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

FEBRUARY 2008 BRUSH FIRES

SITUATION REPORT # 4

1500 Hours February 12, 2008

The next Situation Report will be 13 February 2008 at 1400 hours.

SUMMARY

Multiple wildfires **have been** reported in 61 localities across the Commonwealth. High winds fueled the fires and made fires difficult to contain. **Several localities have submitted requests for assistance. Power outages across the Commonwealth have diminished.**

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: Governor Tim Kaine declared a State of Emergency on February 10, 2008 at 1740 Hours.

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared on February 11, 2008 by:
Bedford County
Roanoke County
Caroline County
Orange County
Dinwiddie County
Lunenburg County
Nelson County
King George County
Henrico County
Hanover County
Charlotte County

COMMAND STAFF

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Media interest in the fires is decreasing and the Joint Information Center has stood down. VDEM Public Affairs and VDOF Public Affairs continue to respond to media calls as needed.

WEATHER

Forecast: Winter Weather Advisory in effect from 1200 to 2200 hrs, 12 February, for Northwest and Northern VA. Light precipitation will overspread the northern Shenandoah Valley and portions of Northern VA this afternoon. Temperatures are forecast to stay at or just below freezing into this evening. Any precipitation will likely fall as sleet and freezing rain resulting in up to one tenth of an inch of ice accumulation with the main threat will be bridges and overpasses getting a glaze of ice this evening.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resource and shelter status.

ESF 16 – Military Affairs:

Virginia National Guard (VANG)

Joint Operations Center is at increased readiness. 100 National Guard personnel at Ft Pickett, 11 February, **have completed** training by DOF in fire line defense **and have deployed on 12 February to assist with mop up operations as follows: 40 guard personnel to Smith Mountain Lake Dam fire, Bedford County; 60 guard personnel to Cravens Cove fire, Roanoke County.**

2 helicopter crews are on standby at Sandston.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting:

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The Forestry Command Center is operational and has coordinated response to widespread fires in the following jurisdictions:

- Dinwiddie (evacuations and 3 homes lost)
- Brunswick (1 home lost)
- Chesapeake (1 home lost)
- Campbell (1 home lost)
- Suffolk (I-664 impacted)
- Louisa (evacuations and 1 home lost)
- Bedford (evacuations)
- Roanoke (evacuations)
- Essex, Hanover, Chesterfield, Henrico, James City, New Kent, Caroline, Spotsylvania, Nelson, Amherst, Orange, Augusta, Pittsylvania, Lunenburg, Prince Edward, Appomattox, Halifax, Buckingham, Floyd, Patrick, Carroll, Grayson

Currently, VDOF reports approximately 300 fires statewide with over **10,000** acres burned; some fires as large as 1000+ acres, some between 500 and 100 acres, and many smaller ones. **The majority** of these fires are now contained. More than 740 firefighters worked against these blazes from Virginia Beach to Roanoke and into Fairfax County.

DOF Regional Type III Incident Management Teams in Place at the Regional Offices in all but Region 6.

Central Office Type III Incident Management Team being mobilized to assist with the Nelson/Amherst County incidents.

Resources:

- 2 National Guard Blackhawk crews on standby
- DOF Plane – providing aerial recon of areas West of I-95
- State Police Helicopter – providing aerial recon East of I-95
- Helicopter Bucket Support – 3 contract ships in use
- VDOF moving dozer and personnel resources out of Region 6 to provide additional help to other areas of the state.
- Type II Federal Incident Management Teams and 7 Type I Federal Firefighting Teams with 20 person crews have been deployed to Blackhorse Fire, Jefferson National Park.

Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)

Staffing through 12 February to ensure safe return of resources; resume normal operations 13 February. Tracking and supporting mission requests as follows:

- **Louisa County – resumed normal operations 11 February. Outside resources demobilized.**
- **Hanover County – resumed normal operations 11 February.**
- **Isle of Wight County – requested and received aircraft resource 11 February.**
- **Nelson County – resumed normal operations 11 February.**

- **Dinwiddie County** – largest fire from Sunday, 10 February is currently 90-95% contained as of 0900 hrs 12 February. Expect 100% containment by end of today and mop up operations to begin. All outside resources demobilized.
- **Roanoke County** – Cravens Cove fire still active, being handled by Roanoke County, VDOF and 60 National Guard personnel. All outside resources demobilized.
- **Bedford County** – Blackhorse fire being managed by federal agencies/resources.
- **Smith Mountain Lake dam fire** 100% contained on 11 February. Mop up being managed jointly by Bedford County and VDOF.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

Monitoring shelter operations.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Southside Area Chapter of the American Red Cross **provided** mobile feeding throughout Brunswick, Nottoway and Dinwiddie counties. **Roanoke Civic Center sheltered 27 people on 11 February and will remain open through tonight, 12 February, with similar numbers expected.**

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Monitoring power restoration, shelter situation, nursing homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities and responding to jurisdictional requests,

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

All primary and secondary roads are currently open.

ESF 12 – Energy: State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Currently there are approximately **28,500** outages statewide. Dominion plans to have all customers up by February 12; Appalachian Power by February 14. **No reports received of power outages at polling sites for the primary on 12 February.**

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC coordinated 16 requests for assistance from 14 localities.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

A total of 61 localities reported brush fire activity during this event. All local emergency operations centers have closed. Fourteen localities requested assistance and eleven localities declared local emergencies.

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